



McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
Tel (916) 554-2700
TTY (916) 554-2855

NEWS RELEASE

Fresno
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel (559) 497-4000
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 4, 2007

Contact: David Gappa 559-497-4020
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

**FRAZIER PARK, CALIFORNIA RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY
TO RECEIVING AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

FRESNO – United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that ALAN CARL NICOLL, 60, of Frazier Park, California pleaded guilty before United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii to one count of receiving or distributing images of child pornography and one count of possessing images of child pornography. He will be sentenced on November 13, 2007.

The case was the result of an investigation by the Kern County Sheriff's Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation office in Bakersfield, California with assistance from the Ventura County Sheriff's Department during Operation Valley Predator as part of Project Safe Childhood. Project Safe Childhood was launched to increase federal prosecutions of sexual predators of children, and to reduce the number of Internet crimes against children including child pornography trafficking. As a part of PSC, the United States Attorney's Office has teamed with state and local agencies and organizations to increase law enforcement presence on the Internet, and to educate the public about safe Internet use, thereby reducing the risk that children might fall prey to online sexual predators. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to www.projectsafefchildhood.gov or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator. Operation Valley Predator took place in October 2006 and involved federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies combining resources to do compliance checks on registered sex offenders as well as to locate sex offenders who were not registered.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, NICOLL was convicted on September 15, 2006, in the California Superior Court, Ventura County, for possessing child pornography. That case resulted from a joint investigation by the California Department of Fish and Game and the Ventura County Sheriff's Department. As part of the follow up investigation in that case, investigators with the Kern County Sheriff's Department obtained a search warrant for the defendant's residence. When they executed the warrant they recovered three computers that were subjected to a forensic analysis. More than 1,400 still and video images of the sexual exploitation of minors were recovered. Many of them were of children as young as two years of age, and many depicted images of violence or sadistic

or masochistic conduct. Investigators also recovered numerous stories describing the sexual abuse of children as well as many writings by the defendant indicating his sexual interest in young children.

There was no plea agreement in this case. Because of his prior conviction for possession of child pornography, NICOLL will face a mandatory prison term of between 10 and 20 years for possession of child pornography and a mandatory prison term of between 15 and 40 years for receipt or distribution of child pornography. He is also subject to a potential fine of \$250,000 for each count, and a possible lifetime term of supervised release. His actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

NICOLL has been in custody, as a danger to the community and a flight risk, since his arrest on October 26, 2006.

###